IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A computer-implemented method for automated underwriting of a portfolio of segmentable, financial instrument assets using a portfolio valuation system, the portfolio valuation system including a computer coupled to a database, said method comprising the steps of:

defining a first set of clusters of assets by common attributes, wherein each defined cluster within the first set of clusters includes assets having common attributes;

utilizing the computer to perform analytics that enable a selection of sample assets from each defined cluster within the first set of clusters for valuation purposes;

receiving at the computer a value assigned to each of the sample asset assets which is based on an expert opinion, the value is a monetary amount projected by the expert representing a current purchase price of the corresponding asset; and

performing an underwriting process on each of the sample asset assets using the expert opinion including determining whether each of the sample asset assets includes a combination of attributes and includes any additional attributes, analyzing each of the sample asset assets having a combination of attributes, and reconciling the value assigned to each of the sample asset assets having a combination of attributes.; and

generating an adjusted value for each of the sample assets based on the performed underwriting process.

2. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of selecting and setting individual attributes to be used for valuing each asset included in the portfolio based on the underwriting of each of the sample asset assets.

3. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 2 further comprising the step of classifying the assets into a second set of clusters based on the selected individual attributes.

4. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 3 further comprising the step of valuing each asset included in each cluster <u>within the second set of clusters</u> based on the <u>adjusted</u> value assigned to each <u>of the</u> sample ~~asset~~ <u>assets</u> from the underwriting process.

5. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

combining the assets <u>included within the portfolio</u> based on at least one of the value of each asset and the selected individual attributes; and

creating a credit analyst table based on the combined assets.

6. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 5 further comprising the step of using the credit analyst table to establish at least one asset class.

7. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of defining <u>a</u> <u>first set of</u> clusters of assets by common attributes further comprises the step of identifying <u>a first</u> <u>set of</u> clusters of assets with common characteristics using business rules.

8. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving at the computer a value assigned to each <u>of the</u> sample ~~asset~~ <u>assets</u> which is based on an expert opinion further comprises the step of evaluating the assets by computer with the assistance from an experienced underwriter.

9. (currently amended) A portfolio valuation system for automated underwriting of segmentable, financial instrument assets, said system comprising:

a computer configured as a server and further configured with a database of asset portfolios; and

at least one client system connected to said server through a network, said server configured to:

define <u>a first set of</u> clusters of assets by common attributes wherein each defined cluster <u>within the first set of clusters</u> includes assets having common attributes,

select sample assets from each defined cluster <u>within the first set of clusters</u> for valuation purposes,

receive a value assigned to each <u>of the</u> sample ~~asset~~ <u>assets</u> which is based on an expert opinion<u>, the value is a monetary amount projected by the expert representing a current purchase price of the corresponding asset</u>, ~~and~~

perform an underwriting process on each <u>of the</u> sample ~~asset~~ <u>assets</u> using the expert opinion including determining whether each <u>of the</u> sample ~~asset~~ <u>assets</u> includes a combination of attributes and includes any additional attributes, analyzing each <u>of the</u> sample ~~asset~~ <u>assets</u> having a combination of attributes, and reconciling the value assigned to each <u>of the</u> sample ~~asset~~ <u>assets</u> having a combination of attributes~~.~~<u>, and</u>

<u>generate an adjusted value for each of the sample assets based on the performed underwriting process.</u>

10. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said server is further configured to select ~~and set~~ individual attributes to be used for valuing each asset included in the portfolio based on the underwriting of each <u>of the</u> sample ~~asset~~ <u>assets</u>.

11. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 10 wherein said server is further configured to classify the assets into <u>a second set of</u> clusters based on the selected individual attributes.

12. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server is further configured to value each asset included in each cluster <u>within the second set of clusters</u> based on the <u>adjusted</u> value assigned to each <u>of the</u> sample ~~asset~~ <u>assets</u> from the underwriting process.

13. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 12 wherein said server is configured to:

combine the assets <u>included within the portfolio</u> based on at least one of the value of each asset and the selected individual attributes; and

create a credit analyst table based on the combined assets.

14. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server is further configured to use the credit analyst table to establish at least one asset class.

15. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said server is configured to identify the first set of clusters of assets with common characteristics using business rules.

16. (original) A system according to Claim 9 wherein said server is configured to evaluate the assets with assistance from an experienced underwriter.

17. (currently amended) A computer for automated underwriting of segmentable, financial instrument assets, said computer including a database of asset portfolios, said computer programmed to:

define a first set of clusters of assets by common attributes wherein each defined cluster within the first set of clusters includes assets having common attributes, the assets included within the first set of clusters are included within a portfolio stored within the database;

select sample assets from each defined cluster within the first set of clusters for valuation purposes;

receive a value assigned to each of the sample asset assets which is based on an expert opinion, the value is a monetary amount projected by the expert representing a current purchase price of the corresponding asset; and

perform an underwriting process on each of the sample asset assets using the expert opinion including determining whether each of the sample asset assets includes a combination of attributes and includes any additional attributes, analyzing each of the sample asset assets having a combination of attributes, and reconciling the value assigned to each of the sample asset assets having a combination of attributes; and

generate an adjusted value for each of the sample assets based on the performed underwriting process.

18. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 17 programmed to select ~~and set~~ individual attributes to be used for valuing each asset included in the portfolio based on the underwriting of each of the sample ~~asset~~ assets.

19. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 18 programmed to classify the assets into a second set of clusters based on the selected individual attributes.

20. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 19 programmed to value each asset included in each cluster within the second set of clusters based on the adjusted value assigned to each of the sample ~~asset~~ assets from the underwriting process.

21. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 20 programmed to:

combine the assets included within the portfolio based on at least one of the value of each asset and the selected individual attributes; and

create a credit analyst table based on the combined assets.

22. (previously presented) A computer according to Claim 21 programmed to use the credit analyst table to establish at least one asset class.

23. (currently amended) A computer according to Claim 17 programmed to identify a first set of clusters of assets with common characteristics using business rules.

24. (original) A computer according to Claim 17 programmed to evaluate the assets with assistance from an experienced underwriter.

25. (new) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

selecting individual attributes for valuing each asset included within the portfolio after performing the underwriting process on each of the sample assets;

classifying each asset included within the portfolio into a second set of clusters based on the selected individual attributes; and

valuing each asset included within the portfolio by valuing each asset included in each cluster of the second set of clusters based on the adjusted value assigned to each of the sample assets from the underwriting process.